

**Health Insurance Exchange Planning Grant -- Planning Committee Meeting
Minutes -- July 21, 2011**

Members Present: Jeannette DeJesús, Office of Health Reform and Innovation; Tia Cintron, CT Office of Policy and Management (OPM); James Auger, Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield; Evelyn Barnum, Community Health Center Association of Connecticut; Phil Boyle, HCG Services, Inc.; Mary Ellen Breault, CT Insurance Department (CID); Steve Casey, CT Department of Information Technology (DOIT); Ken Ferrucci, Connecticut State Medical Society; Margaret Flinter, Community Health Center, Inc.; Stephen Frayne, Connecticut Hospital Association; Paul Lombardo, CID; Kimberly Martone, CT Department of Public Health (DPH); Tim Meyer for Susan Tully-Abdo, Aetna; Brian O'Connor, Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce; Janice Perkins, ConnectiCare; Louis Polzella, CT Department of Social Services (DSS); Victoria Veltri, Office of Healthcare Advocate; Teresa Younger, Permanent Commission on the Status of Women; Michelle Zettergren, ConnectiCare

Members Absent: Ronald Angelo, CT Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD); Bob Dakers, OPM; Jamesina Henderson, Cornell Scott-Hill Health Corporation; Stan McMillen, (DECD); Tony Rescigno, Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce; Mark Schaefer, DSS

Other Participants: David Guttchen, OPM; Barbara Parks Wolf, OPM; David Krause, OPM; Jennifer Deperry, OPM; Amy Tibor, OPM; Alexis Fedorjaczenko, DPH

Introductions

The meeting of the Health Insurance Planning Grant Committee was called to order at 9:00 a.m. Tia Cintron, Project Manager of the Insurance Exchange Planning Grant, introduced new Exchange Planning Grant staff members: Jennifer Deperry and Amy Tibor.

Legislation Update

Jeannette DeJesús announced the establishment of the Office of Health Reform and Innovation. The Office has been created to coordinate the work of the State around health reform implementation. The Office will be located in the State Capitol Building. There will be more specific information available soon as to the location and contact information of the Office. There will be one staff person.

Jeannette also announced the development of the health reform website which is currently underway. It will provide links to existing State agencies as they relate to health reform, such as DSS, DPH, the Office of the Healthcare Advocate, and the CT Insurance Department, as well as providing a link to the Exchange.

Alexis Fedorjaczenko provided additional information on the development of the health reform website. The site is expected to go live within the next week. The address of the site is www.healthreform.ct.gov. The website will be accessible from the DPH website. Alexis reiterated that the site will serve as a central place for health reform information while providing links to existing state agencies and their websites respectively, as well as contact information for the Office of Health Reform and Innovation.

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Exchange Legislation

David Guttchen provided an update on Exchange Legislation. Of the three proposed Exchange bills, a compromised bill (Public Act 11-53) has been enacted into law. Public Act 11-53 is based on Senate Bill 921 (Governor Malloy's bill) but incorporates components from HB 6323 (Speaker Donovan's bill), and SB 1204 (Senator Williams' bill).

Public Act 11-53 creates a Quasi-State Exchange Authority which consists of 11 board members, including three from the Executive Branch (Jeannette DeJesús, the Special Advisor to the Governor on Health Reform; Commissioner Roderick Bremby from DSS, and Secretary Benjamin Barnes from OPM). There are eight appointees which include two from the Governor and six from legislative leadership. The Governor will name a Chairperson for the Exchange. There are also three ex-officio non-voting members, including Vickie Veltrie as the Healthcare Advocate, Commissioner Jewel Mullen of DPH, and Commissioner Thomas Leonardi of CID. In total there are 14 board members to which three are non-voting.

The statute calls for all appointments to be made by July 1st, however, challenges in the appointment process have caused a few delays. Once all appointments have been made, the Governor will then name a Chair. The statute also calls for the first board meeting to be held by August 1st. The current expectation is to have the board established and to hold the first board meeting by early Fall.

David noted that the statute additionally calls for the board to make three recommendations to the Governor for the initial CEO. Once the CEO has been selected, the remaining initial Exchange staff will be hired. David added that the initial Exchange positions will be funded by the Level One Establishment Grant, which will also fund procurement of legal help to assist in creating the Exchange administrative structure.

It was noted that one change to Public Act 11-53 pertains to the language around Exchange employees engaging in selling, soliciting, and negotiating insurance. The language states that any employee of the Exchange engaging in such functions shall be licensed, not later than one year after employment begins. The requirement has changed from within one year to within *18 months* of employment with the Exchange. There are no other changes to the bill.

Jeannette congratulated the OPM staff on the work that has been done on the Exchange planning and recognized the numerous milestones achieved to date.

Stakeholder Engagement Process

Tia Cintron provided an update on the conclusion of the stakeholder engagement process. Six public forums and nine stakeholder meetings were held with over 80 organizations invited to participate. Tia explained that although lightly attended, the forums were beneficial in shedding light on general questions and concerns. Tia noted that these comments were not surprising to the State and their value was not underscored. Some examples of comments and questions included affordability of the Exchange, the importance of quality and access, and the role of the Navigators.

In regards to the stakeholder group meetings, a summary of the meeting discussions was distributed to stakeholders for final comments. All comments from this engagement process have been posted to the Exchange website (www.ct.gov/opm/exchangegrant.com). Another look at the data will be taken in

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terms of presenting the highpoints in a way that illustrates response comparisons across groups. All stakeholder data and summary information will be included in the final report to the Governor.

Tia also informed the members that a meeting with the Mohegan Tribal Nation Leadership was held recently and comments from that meeting are expected soon from the Tribal Government. A meeting with the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation Leadership is expected to be scheduled towards the end of July or early August.

Planning Grant Vendor

Tia Cintron announced that the State has finished contract negotiations and has selected Mercer Health and Benefits, LLC as its planning grant vendor. Mercer is working with Health Management Associates and Oliver Wyman as subcontractors. Despite the delays, the scope of work is not altered and time lines are being revised slightly to accommodate the date changes. Tia noted that the research quality and integrity of this work will not be compromised.

Level One Establishment Grant

Tia Cintron reviewed the next stage in Exchange planning and announced that the Level One Establishment Grant was submitted on June 28, 2011 for \$6.7 million. The project areas of this grant include three critical task areas that will enable Connecticut to successfully meet the requirements for Level Two Establishment Funding anticipated for March 2012: 1.) Administrative structure, staff hiring and office space procurement; 2.) Business operations and; 3.) Customer support program design and development.

Steven Frayne asked Tia for timeframes regarding the grants and work components. Tia explained that more will be known as to status regarding funding next week, however, it is anticipated that August 15th will be the Level One Funding Award date and will be approved for the time period of one year.

These three task areas run in parallel and their anticipated timeframes are as follows:

- 1.) Administrative structure, leadership staffing and office space procurement
Time frame: August 2011-May 2012.
- 2.) Business operations
Time frame: November 2011-August 2012.
- 3.) Consumer support program assessment and design
Time frame: August 2011-January 2012.

David described the unique nature of the grants, noting that it is not a question of whether the State will receive Level One funding but rather how much will be allocated. Level Two funding is expected to take the Exchange, including salaries and consultants through December 31, 2014 and is expected to be applied for by March 30, 2012.

Tia provided a brief status of the New England States Collaborative efforts on the Early Innovator Grant work and noted that Mark Shok, Lou Polzella and herself continue to participate in that consortium. The

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purpose of the grant is to leverage relevant information and findings to assist other states in the design and planning of Exchange IT system components. Tia asked Lou Polzella to provide an update on the work that the grant is doing currently with their IT Gap Analysis. Lou noted that a vendor was selected (CGI) to perform an analysis assessing the Massachusetts Connector as compared to how the State's Exchanges are meant to operate under the ACA. This analysis will be shared with the collaborating states and that a reusability scorecard is being developed on Exchange ACA components. A detailed design review artifact will be produced and shared. Lou explained that for planning and assessment purposes, one of the values in participation in this initiative is that it assists us in focusing on what we might want to use as well as helps guide processes and principals.

Teresa Younger raised a question regarding the timing of each of these grants. Regarding the Early Innovator grant, Lou answered that 2013 was the general timeframe for outputs and specified that this is dependent on the next steps from the federal government in terms of regulations. Teresa also asked about Mercer's timelines with respect to research completion dates. Tia responded that the original work plan called for finalization of the analysis at the end of September, but as noted previously, she explained that the time lines were being revisited and that they will be compressed slightly to accommodate the start date delay.

With respect to being referred to as a *collaborating state*, Janice Perkins asked Lou what Connecticut will be doing independently. Lou answered that he does not expect the State will be doing anything independently. Connecticut is participating in part to assess the potential for reusability of IT components. He noted that Connecticut is presently learning from Massachusetts' Exchange design model and until we have more information, we will continue to evaluate and assess for possible reuse.

Next Steps

Tia Cintron informed the committee members that the high points of the proposed rules are currently being reviewed by OPM and comments by members on the regulations are welcome. David advised of the federal September 28th comment deadline date.

Jeannette DeJesús announced that the planning committee will no longer be necessary in terms of meeting within its current configuration. She advised of ample opportunities for continued participation, which will continue to exist within the development of the Exchange through the board and committees that are being established, and also through the mentioned websites, which will allow updates on the process and other health reform innovations. Jeannette thanked the Planning Committee for their participation thus far.

Margaret Flinter asked Jeannette when the board will be announced. Jeannette responded that the board will be disclosed in the next couple of weeks.

Phil Boyle expressed his appreciation of the work that has been done by the State, particularly in light of what has been accomplished in other states, and commended the progress made.

David acknowledged efforts made by Tia Cintron and other staff members of OPM, Jennifer Deperry, Amy Tibor, David Krause, and Barbara Parks Wolf, and also acknowledged the efforts of Jeannette DeJesús, and Alexis Fedorjacenko.